



News Release

Cooperating with Texas Department of Agriculture

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On: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION SURVEY

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Official Texas County Yield Survey to Start in July

Each year, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is required to estimate average yields for the major crops in each county. Administrative information is available for planted acres and failed acres in a county, but the only comprehensive source of information for actual harvested acres and the yield from those acres, is the producer.

The county yield per harvested acre which NASS must estimate is a key component of several programs that many farmers use. They include crop insurance and disaster programs, and the new ACRE program offered through FSA. Obtaining good coverage of actual harvested yields in a county is vital to making reliable estimates for that county. Producer participation in the NASS yield surveys is critical to having reliable county yield averages.

Beginning in mid-July, the first County Agricultural Production Survey will be mailed to farmers across the state. This early county survey will focus on wheat and oat production and yields. Farmers can return the form by mail or complete the survey online at a secure website. Follow-up contacts will be made in August and September to obtain the best coverage possible of wheat and oat yields in every county.

Some wheat and oat producers will not receive a County Survey in July, but will receive a September Ag Survey instead. Responses on the September Survey are used for final state level production estimates, and used for county yields as well. Later in the fall, a second County Survey will be conducted to obtain harvested yield information for corn, cotton, sorghum, peanuts, rice, soybeans and sunflowers.

With county yields having a significant role in several highly used farm programs, producers are encouraged to complete the NASS yield surveys if they receive one. As with all NASS surveys, a producer's individual responses are guaranteed complete confidentiality under federal law (Title 7, U.S. Code).

For more information, contact Bob Garino at (800) 626-3142.